

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An expansion unit capable of being detachably mounted to an expansion bay of an information processing apparatus, the expansion unit comprising:

10 an imaging device;
 a moving member moving the imaging device
between a state in which the imaging device is
stored inside the expansion unit and a state in
which the imaging device projects outwardly from the
15 expansion unit; and
 a member capable of changing a direction in
which the imaging device is pointed when the imaging
device is extended from the expansion unit,
 the imaging device being detachable from
20 the expansion unit and supportable in such detached
state.

2. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising:

30. a supporting member for supporting the imaging device on the information processing apparatus when the imaging device is detached from the expansion unit; and

a storage compartment inside the expansion unit for storing the supporting member.

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15 a cable storage compartment inside the
expansion unit for storing the cable.

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7. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 5,
wherein the cable is stored in the cable storage

compartment in a state in which the cable is disconnected from the imaging device.

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8. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cable is stored in a wrapped state in the cable storage compartment.

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9. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a connecting member that is connected to the information processing apparatus when the expansion unit is mounted in the expansion bay of the information processing apparatus; and

a connecting mechanism connecting the connecting member and the imaging device,

the expansion unit being connected to the information processing apparatus via the connecting mechanism and the connecting member when the expansion unit is mounted in the expansion bay.

10. The expansion unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a mechanism for preventing improper mounting of the imaging device on the expansion unit.

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imaging device to the portable information processing apparatus when the imaging device is detached from the portable information processing apparatus.

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14. The portable information processing apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a holder for storing both the supporting member for supporting the detached imaging device on the portable information processing apparatus and a connecting cable connecting the detached imaging device and the portable information processing apparatus.

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15. An imaging device comprising:
a lens assembly;
a first printed circuit board;
a second printed circuit board separate
25 from the first printed circuit board; and
a housing for accommodating the lens assembly, the first printed circuit board and the second printed circuit board,
the lens assembly being mounted on the
30 second printed circuit board, an intermediate portion of a thickness in a direction of focus of the lens assembly having a height identical to a height of the first printed circuit board, the lens assembly and the first and second printed circuit
35 boards being accommodated within the housing.

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